

# National Congress Bulletin



SEPTEMBER 1960 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 28, NO. 1

## MEMBERSHIP PROCLAMATION

On television and radio, at public meetings, in the daily press, we are reminded of what we know well—that the severed affairs of mankind hover at the peril point, that not only the survival of individual men and nations but the survival of mankind is at stake. Thoughtful men and women recall us to our great national ideals and exhort us to labor with hand and head and heart to make them realities for ourselves and other peoples.

We parent-teacher members are well aware of the present danger and of the greater peril to come should we fail to rise to the challenges of our time. We realize that two ideologies, conflicting in temper and morality, are being weighed and judged by millions of people in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. We cannot comfort ourselves by saying of these undecided, uncommitted people, "Fear not, for they that are with us are more than they that are without us." If we would fear not, we must put forth hard, unremitting, self-sacrificing effort to keep ourselves a nation dedicated to exercising our own freedom and to helping other peoples achieve freedom and economic well-being. If we would remain leaders of the free world, if we would remain "the chief home and hope of freedom," we must demonstrate that freedom is not debilitating but demanding, that it calls forth the best that is in men—their sense of justice, their generosity, their commitment to moral, purposeful living.

Surely in November every one of us will go to the polls and cast his vote as his conscience and convictions dictate. Silence is not citizenship, and the nonvoter is a civic hazard. But when we have exercised the hard-won, precious privilege of voting, we will know that we are not done with our

citizenship responsibilities, one of which is to rear and educate America's children and youth in freedom and dignity. For no nation has anything stronger to depend on than the vigor and intelligence of its children, and children have nothing else to depend on than the wisdom, integrity, and maturity of the adults who guide them.

We in the parent-teacher organization are those adults. Gladly will we take on whatever heavy new tasks are demanded of us. But at no time shall we or can we neglect the labors that are uniquely ours by choice, by training, and by experience.

What are those tasks of ours that remain constant and unchanging in a changing, mutable world?

To provide for every child in our midst—

A home warmed by love and lighted by faith and high purpose.

A school in which the young mind stretches and the young spirit reaches.

A community where just, generous adults, living the tenets of democracy, provide models to emulate.

Is not this the way that our organization can best fortify our nation for the era ahead? Is not this the best way to assure not its mere survival but its golden age?

There is still another task for which we are well qualified: to help build good will among people of different origins and different lands. No novices in this realm, we shall intensify our efforts to help all peoples advance toward that happier time when political domination will die and the death-dealing engines of war will be transformed into the life-giving implements of peace. Though we have never been bereft of freedom in our land, we are not hardened to the heartbreak of those who have seen it die in their lands. Nor are we indifferent to the hopes of those who agonize to give freedom birth in their countries. We would help them not

(Continued on next page)



## MEMBERSHIP PROCLAMATION . . . Continued

only because this shrinking globe binds our children's fate to theirs, but because no child, wherever he is, is beyond the boundaries of our caring.

This nation has already been enriched beyond computation by the selfless work of P.T.A. members. It will be ever so. For membership in the National Congress gives each of us a personal way of achieving the full measure of our responsibilities as free human beings and citizens. The incredible growth of our membership is proof that more and more men and women seek—and find in the P.T.A.—broad, open highways to serving their children, their communities, and their country.

The Action Program of the National Congress is an undertaking of such scope and magnitude that it requires every skill and talent that Americans possess. The problems before us are not simple ones to be solved simply and swiftly. But as we evolve one workable solution after another, we grow in the skill and imagination to find others.

To our ranks we would welcome all who ask, "What can I do?" We offer them the opportunity to give unstintingly of their time, their energy, their strength. We offer the opportunity to think hard, to labor arduously, to strive, and to achieve. And so that all may have a chance to give of themselves, I, Karla V. Parker, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, designate the month of October 1960 as Membership Enrollment Month. And I urge everyone who is already a member to invite any of his co-workers, neighbors, and friends who are not yet among us to join with us. There is need of all, room for all, and a pledge that all will find abounding opportunities to "Strengthen the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness."

*Karla V. Parker*

IN THE MEMBERSHIP proclamation I have spoken of our steadfast ideals and tasks in terms that are broad and deep. Now I would add this personal word to every local president: It is my hope that each of you will succeed in adapting the Action Program to your community situation and needs. And it is my faith that when the efforts of all are tallied, the greatness of our unified work will be clearly visible throughout the land. Next month you will hear from me again through the "President's Message" that appears regularly on page one of this *Bulletin*. Meanwhile, my best wishes to each of you.

K.V.P.

## HERE'S HOW WE STOOD on April 15, 1960

Alabama	215,391
Alaska	10,700
Arizona	84,071
Arkansas	132,950
California	1,846,657
Colorado	177,925
Connecticut	153,610
Delaware	35,613
District of Columbia	45,416
European Congress of American Parents and Teachers	40,802
Florida	348,472
Georgia	267,752
Hawaii	82,730
Idaho	49,542
Illinois	692,626
Indiana	261,844
Iowa	157,653
Kansas	205,616
Kentucky	196,711
Louisiana	118,551
Maine	31,857
Maryland	200,232
Massachusetts	150,125
Michigan	380,461
Minnesota	251,294
Mississippi	96,344
Missouri	255,842
Montana	33,551
Nebraska	71,016
Nevada	25,859
New Hampshire	25,924
New Jersey	463,990
New Mexico	46,216
New York	541,886
North Carolina	373,092
North Dakota	47,816
Ohio	740,304
Oklahoma	187,815
Oregon	128,678
Pennsylvania	570,000
Rhode Island	54,955
South Carolina	105,104
South Dakota	36,862
Tennessee	340,353
Texas	720,792
Utah	116,404
Vermont	21,396
Virginia	266,644
Washington	222,202
West Virginia	113,339
Wisconsin	155,123
Wyoming	16,189
Unorganized areas	10,435
Total	11,926,552

How will your state stand next April 15?  
Remember, our goal is 12,000,001 in '61.



# National LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

• April 30, 1960—July 31, 1960 •

Show this list to friends whose names appear here. What other citizens in your community deserve to share this spotlight?

HOW HEART WARMING it is to see our Honorary National Life Memberships conferred on deserving persons! Memorable indeed was the session of the national convention at which Honorary Memberships were conferred on two of the parent-teacher organization's staunchest friends, Harry and Bonaro Overstreet.

In presenting the awards Mrs. Parker said, in part, "Every year our colleges confer degrees upon men and women who have enriched humanity. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, too, confers the equivalent of honorary degrees upon persons whose devotion to the national welfare has been singularly outstanding. Today it is my privilege to award a National Life Membership to a woman who . . . is not only a poet of note and a prose writer of power but an adult educator who is everywhere regarded as a master analyst of the human spirit. . . ."

Then, to Mrs. Overstreet, "Because you have used your great gifts to strengthen the emotional health of the P.T.A. and because you have shown us how to build better lives for ourselves and our children, we proudly and with deep satisfaction welcome you as a Life Member of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers."

When Mrs. Parker presented the second Life Membership to Dr. Overstreet she spoke of his "philosopher's vision

of the good life, combined with a builder's practical ideas on how to obtain it" and of his "impact on the life and maturity of America."

I'm sure those who witnessed this simple ceremony—and those who read about it—cannot help thinking, "What a wonderful way to pay tribute to someone who has helped to make this a better world!"

Other persons, too, have been thus honored by appreciative parents and teachers since our last *Bulletin* listing. Their names are given here along with those withheld before because the Memberships had not yet been presented. If you would like information on how to give Honorary National Life Memberships, you will find it on page 253 of the *Parent-Teacher Manual*.

Mrs. Newton P. Leonard  
A Director of the Endowment Fund  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

• • •

**Alabama:** Mrs. B. H. Johnson, Jr., Bessemer

**Arizona:** Mrs. Verne Littlefield, Phoenix

**California:** Robert Binns, Sacramento; Mrs. I. A. Bonilla, Santa Barbara; Stella Broholm, Gardena; Mrs. Daniel J. Dailey, Los Angeles; Mrs. Clinton H. Dickison, Los Angeles; Mrs. Ralph Dow, Sacramento; Charlotte Ferris, Redondo Beach; Mrs. Stanley Gulliver, Van Nuys; Mrs. Gordon Jennings, Los Angeles; Mrs. H. L. Klakoff, Bakersfield;

Roy A. Knapp, Lancaster; Marguerette V. MacMillan, Santa Monica; Vern J. Rice, Inglewood

**Connecticut:** Mrs. Paul Harrigan, East Hartford; Mrs. Perry Merchant, West Hartford (Membership received in Berkley, Michigan); Mrs. J. Edward Sjolund, Norwalk

**European Congress:** Donald E. Moffett, Augsburg, Germany

**Florida:** Mrs. Eloise P. Barney, Fort Lauderdale; Mrs. Letha Carlton, Wauchula; Mrs. Raymond H. Cassel, Miami; Mrs. Tom M. Holdcroft, Coral Gables

**Hawaii:** Laura Pratt Bowers, Honolulu

**Illinois:** Mrs. R. O. Evans, Quincy; Mrs. Harold T. Kracht, La Grange Park; Mrs. Philip Wheaton, Tinley Park; Mrs. Nettie Williams, Chicago; Mrs. Wilbur Zinn, Lombard

**Indiana:** Mrs. Arthur W. Ferm, South Bend

**Kansas:** Mrs. R. W. Scoville, Kansas City

**Kentucky:** Mrs. Karl Bader, Louisville; Mrs. Elmer K. Robertson, Louisville

**Louisiana:** Mrs. A. D. Schoeffler, Sr., Lafayette

**Maryland:** Francis J. Fagan, Baltimore

**Missouri:** George W. Frederickson, Ferguson

**Nevada:** Mrs. Walter Wedow, Sparks

**New Jersey:** Mrs. Alex Gordon, Bayonne; Mrs. Louis M. Miller, Collingswood

**New Mexico:** Ward Curtis, Hatch

**New York:** Mrs. Thomas W. Edson, Camillus; Mrs. Romine Foster, Pittsford; Mrs. William Gioseffi, Wantagh; Mrs. William T. Heimlich, Ithaca; Mrs. Ralph C. Suber, Beacon

**North Carolina:** Mrs. Blanche F. Farlow, Sophia

**Ohio:** Florence Danforth, Akron; Stanley L. Gingery, Columbus; Mrs. Herbert M. Kinney, Columbus; Mrs. Richard J. Powell, Garfield Heights; Mrs. Harold E. Rada-baugh, Cincinnati

**Oklahoma:** Dr. Charles C. Mason, Tulsa

**Pennsylvania:** Charles H. Boehm, Morrisville; Mrs. Lillian Eberly, Manheim; Mrs. Robert Kiefer, Easton; Oscar L. Lingle, Harrisburg; Mrs. Harry Rossister, Jenkin-town

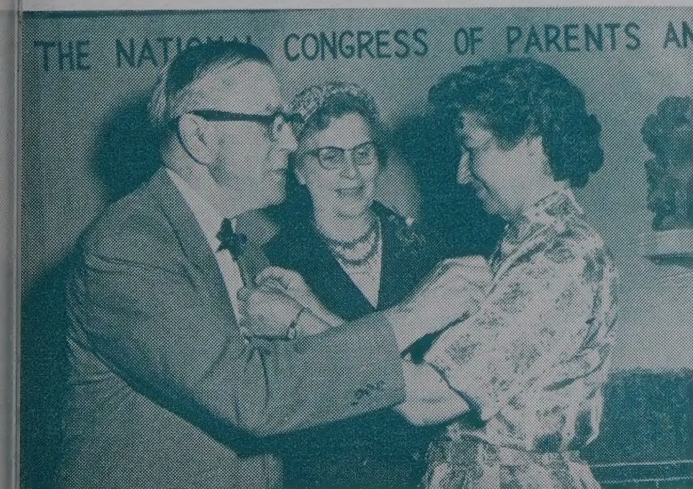
**Tennessee:** Mrs. J. E. Cornette, Nashville

**Texas:** Mrs. Frieda Dillon, Channelview; Mrs. A. J. Hannawacker, Dallas; Mrs. L. A. Hughes, Houston; Mrs. William V. Jones, Beaumont; Cecil L. Redd, Beaumont; W. I. Stevenson, Houston

**Virginia:** Bonaro W. and Harry A. Overstreet, Falls Church

**Washington:** Mrs. W. K. Osborn, Rosalia

**Wisconsin:** Mrs. Harvey Goss, Janesville



• Co-authors of "Where Children Come First," our Congress publication, and many other well-known books receive the P.T.A.'s distinguished service award. Mrs. Parker, who presented the Life Memberships and the pins, affectionately watches the Overstreets' "pinning ceremony."



# FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## Promote the P.T.A. Magazine

### Facts for a Future

★ Has your Magazine chairman checked over one by one the items in the Magazine packet sent to him in your name? Among its helpful materials is one pamphlet that fairly bulges with Magazine promotion ideas—ideas for rounding up effective committees, for stirring up enthusiasm, for person-to-person approaches, for publicity, for using the Magazine in P.T.A. meetings, and on and on, even to a story of how one local unit made the 500-or-More Club.

Who knows, this little booklet may be the very thing that makes the big difference in starting your P.T.A. up the ladder of Magazine clubs!

### FINDERS . . . KEEPERS

New for  
Magazine Chairmen. . .

Helps

Parents and Teachers

Realize That the

Treasures

in the P.T.A. Magazine

Are Theirs

for Keeps!

★ Order this promotion leaflet from your state congress or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

Price: 35 cents for 100; 1,000, \$3.00.

### Easy Access

★ Proof positive that an association subscription to the P.T.A. Magazine is a good investment came in a letter from Margaret L. Stratton, Magazine chairman of the Huth Road P.T.A., Grand Island, New York:

"Last fall our P.T.A. bought ten association subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*, and then let members have pay-as-you-go issues at our P.T.A. meetings.



• These state presidents at the national convention are happy recipients of the P.T.A. Magazine awards earned by their state congresses. From left, front: Mrs. C. W. Johnson, Florida; Mrs. H. D. Worthy, Mississippi; Mrs. William B. Myrick, Louisiana; Mrs. Berne Jacobsen, Washington; and Mrs. J. Frank Snowden, California. From left, rear: Mrs. Horace H. Johnson, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Willis M. Van Horn, Wisconsin; James M. Rosbrow, Delaware; Mrs. Walter Wedow, Nevada; E. D. Trice, Arkansas; and Mrs. J. E. Cornette, Tennessee.

Almost every subscription I took this year was from a person who'd had a chance to get a single copy at a P.T.A. meeting."

This subscription plan (described on a subscription blank that's included in your Magazine packet) is one that can be turned to advantage by your P.T.A., too. Whether you use issues of the Magazine as Mrs. Stratton did, put copies on your P.T.A. bookshelf, or keep them on file for officers and chairmen, you'll be making sure of easy access to help when you need it—in the P.T.A.'s own Magazine.

### An Open Invitation

★ Has your P.T.A. had the distinction of belonging to a *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* club? Whether your answer is *yes* or *no*, why not try to qualify this year? You can set your 1960-61 sights high, for twelve clubs are available and you have seven months (until March 31) to write up qualifying subscriptions. Membership is unlimited!

25-or-More Club	250-or-More Club
50-or-More Club	300-or-More Club
75-or-More Club	350-or-More Club
100-or-More Club	400-or-More Club
150-or-More Club	450-or-More Club
200-or-More Club	500-or-More Club

When enough subscriptions to qualify for a Magazine club have been forwarded, your local Magazine chairman may claim a club membership for your P.T.A. by notifying the *Certificate Department, National Parent-Teacher, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois*. Information on the number of subscriptions taken and the dates on which they were sent to Chicago must be included in the request for a certificate to any one of the Magazine clubs.

The best part of belonging to a Magazine club is the satisfaction of knowing how many homes you are strengthening. Start early, and have the wonderful realization that you have enriched 500—or more!—homes in your community.

### Awards to State Congresses

★ The board of directors of The National Parent-Teacher has announced the 1960-61 plan of awards to state congresses for promotion of the *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*.

Awards will be made on the basis of subscriptions received from April 1, 1960, through March 31, 1961. To qualify for an award a state congress must show an increase in subscriptions over the previous year.

Any state congress that meets one or more of the following requirements in its membership classification (see "Classification of States") will receive an award, to be determined by the board of directors of The National Parent-Teacher. The awards will be announced at the 1961 national convention.

1. Greatest numerical gain in subscriptions over the previous year

**"Let's get going right away with a GREAT BIG PUSH for new and renewed subscriptions that will carry us into and through the year for the biggest gain yet for the *National Parent-Teacher*."**

*Norma N. Burkitt*

MRS. JOEL L. BURKITT, *National Chairman  
National Parent-Teacher Magazine*



2. Greatest per cent of gain
3. Greatest number of subscriptions
4. Greatest per cent of membership subscribing

#### CLASSIFICATION OF STATES

★ As a basis for all the awards, states will be divided into five groups according to P.T.A. membership as of April 15, 1960:

**Over 400,000:** California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas.

**250,000 to 400,000:** Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

**150,000 to 250,000:** Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Washington, Wisconsin.

**50,000 to 150,000:** Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia.

**Less than 50,000:** Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, European Congress, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming.

#### SPECIAL AWARD

★ An interesting special award will be given to the state in each of the five membership classifications that has the largest number of study groups using the *National Parent-Teacher*. A study group that can be included in a state's total number of groups is defined as one in which each member is a Magazine subscriber. Any state seeking this special award must present a full description of how study group projects helped to carry out the Action Program, "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness."

Serve Where You Are—

Join the P.T.A.

and

Read the *National Parent-Teacher*:  
The P.T.A. Magazine

#### NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois

Volume 28 SEPTEMBER, 1960 Number 1

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#### Publications and National Parent-Teacher

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-chief: Eva H. Grant

Senior editors: Mary Elinore Smith, Vera Diekhoff

Production manager: Eleanor Miller

Assistant editors: Pauline Rhiner, Dorothy E. Welker

## CHILD GUIDANCE WEEK, November 27–December 4

**What is it?** A first step in a long-range program of parent-scientist teamwork to prevent emotional problems and delinquency in children and youth.

**Who sponsors it?** The American Child Guidance Foundation, created in 1954 to help prevent juvenile delinquency and its related childhood problems. The National Congress is one of the groups cooperating in Child Guidance Week, and its state branches and local units are urged to share wholeheartedly in efforts to accelerate nation-wide action.

**How can you and your P.T.A. share?** Watch for ideas from your state chairmen—parent and family life education, mental health, program, and audio-visual services, for example; for articles in your state bulletins and in the *National Congress Bulletin*; for study-discussion programs and articles in the *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*. A wealth of materials will be geared to helping you make effective use of resources in setting up November and December panel discussions, group interviews, surveys, a "film festival," and so on.

**Sharing is "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness."**

## CAMP FIRE GIRLS' GOLDEN JUBILEE

● The Camp Fire Girls organization will celebrate its golden anniversary November 1, 1960, to March 17, 1961. Started March 17, 1910, by Dr. and Mrs. Luther Halsey Gulick, the Camp Fire Girls now has a membership of more than a million, and more than ten million girls have participated in the program since it began.

Plans for the celebration include a jubilee convention in New York City, October 30–November 3, and a nationwide recognition service in March 1961, climax of a project launched by the girls in September 1958 to say "thank you" to the nation for its support.

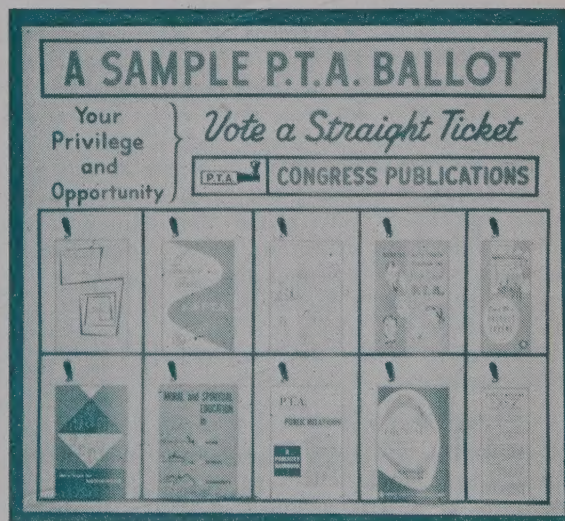
The title of the two-and-a-half year project is "The World Around Her"; the slogan, "She Cares—Do You?" The project includes three special activities: tree census and tree planting; survey of outdoor recreational resources; and wildlife conservation. Five federal government services, eighty divisions of state governments, and more than forty organizations have provided services and advice for these projects at community levels.

A four-cent Camp Fire Girls commemorative stamp will be released by the U.S. Postmaster General during the jubilee convention in November.

#### ✕ JUST THE TICKET!

This poster, shown at the national convention, offers a timely idea for displaying Congress publications—any assortment, any day. Voted in here on the P.T.A. ticket are Looking In on Your School (35 cents), A Teacher's Guide to the P.T.A. (50 cents), Junior Hi-Ways (25 cents), Working with Youth Through the High School P.T.A. (40 cents), Don't Be a Dropout Parent (now revised, with a different cover—100 copies, 50 cents; 1,000, \$4.00), New Hope for Audiences (40 cents), Moral and Spiritual Education in Home, School, and Community

(25 cents), P.T.A. Public Relations (50 cents), Councils of Parent-Teacher Associations (50 cents), and the Congress publications order list (free). Any of these pamphlets may be ordered from your state congress or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.





## A chain of links...

### NATIONAL STATE LOCAL CHAIRMANSHIPS

WHAT, some of you have asked, are the responsibilities of a National Congress chairman? Theoretically his work is not greatly different from that of the state chairman or, indeed, the local unit chairman who serves in the same area of parent-teacher work. Each of us draws up a plan of work, basing it on the National Congress Objects, the Action Program, and the practices and policies that guide us in carrying on our program at the national, state, or local level.

A national chairman is but one of the persons on the team made up of all corresponding state chairmen and local unit chairmen. Thus the national chairman might be said to head a nationwide committee, each member of which is engaged in some phase of the same parent-teacher work.

For example, Mrs. Milton L. Wiener, the national Membership chairman, works with the state membership chairmen, whose committees are composed of all P.T.A. membership chairmen. Mrs. Wiener's committee, then, as you can see, is a long chain that links her desk in Wilmette, Illinois, with P.T.A.'s all over the country.

National chairmanship requires important qualities, as does any other parent-teacher chairmanship. In the first place, the chairman must have a broad and deep understanding of, and a belief in, the parent-teacher movement. It is highly desirable that he have a long-term view of the goals to be accomplished, particularly for his area of responsibility. He must never lose sight of the fact that he is not "alone"; the spheres of influence of many chairmanships are so closely interrelated that it is often difficult to determine where the business of one ends and that of another begins. Though *togetherness* is a much scoffed-at word today, it is nevertheless expressive of the way in which chairmen cooperate.

How do your national chairmen promote their ideas? Perhaps the most personal way is through letters to state chairmen—letters often accompanied by other informational materials. The letters are written and sent to the National Office in Chicago. There they are multilithed and mailed to state chairmen, who use them within their states as they see best.

Generally the chairman's last communication to state chairmen during the parent-teacher year is a request for answers to questions covering the year's committee activities within the state. These answers are largely supplied from the information the state chairman receives from reports of district, council, and local committee activities. They give the national chairman information he needs in order to compile his annual report for the National Congress yearbook, *Proceedings*.

Another of the national chairman's responsibilities is to prepare material for a section of the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, material directed to chairmen of corresponding P.T.A. committees. In this section he carefully outlines committee objectives and suggests activities for building P.T.A. programs. This material, too, is prepared at the National Office, for publication in the *Manual*, which is sent to each of the fifty-two state congresses for the use of all its P.T.A.'s.

To guide state chairmen in developing plans of work for P.T.A. chairmen, all national chairmen prepare plans of work covering their three-year periods of service. Like the material for the *Manual*, these plans are published (in the booklet *Plans of Work*) as instruments for carrying forward the parent-teacher program.

Another satisfaction enjoyed by a national chairman is working closely with other chairmen at meetings of the National Board of Managers, at our annual conventions, and at various special times when National Congress business is under consideration. Still other satisfactions come when he is asked by the president to represent the National Congress at conventions of state congresses and at meetings and conventions of groups with whom we cooperate.

The job of being a chairman of a National Congress committee is a challenging one. And it is one that gives a clearer perspective—a vision of what is possible when one works with the largest group of people in the world that is interested exclusively in the welfare of children and youth.

HOWARD L. BOWEN  
Rural Service Chairman  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

November 6-12

*Strengthen Schools for the 60's*

● What does the next decade hold for Americans? Of one thing we can be quite certain: It will be a decade of staggering changes. To meet these changes with power and wisdom, Thomas D. Bailey, Florida state superintendent of public instruction, told us at the national convention, we must anticipate, control, and direct them. Such a stern challenge, Mr. Bailey stressed, *can* be met if Americans have the educational opportunities they need to become better and stronger individuals, parents, workers, and citizens.

It was with awareness of this need that "Strengthen Schools for the 60's" was chosen as the theme for the first American Education Week in this new decade. Your National Congress is again one of the sponsors of this special week, cooperating with the National Education Association, the U.S. Office of Education, and the American Legion.

During this week, especially, residents of all communities are urged to visit their schools and to learn everything they can about school curriculums, teaching methods and materials, school problems and needs—in other words, to take the first important steps toward assuming personal responsibility for schools that measure up to America's needs.

P.T.A. members who plan to visit their schools will find it helpful to study and perhaps take along with them the National Congress pamphlet *Looking In on Your School: Questions To Guide P.T.A. Fact Finders*. Pointers in this booklet will serve as trusty guides for informed action to strengthen schools.

P.T.A. members also are urged to study, discuss, and give publicity to the 1960 American Education Week topics:

**SUNDAY:** Serious Students—Stronger Schools.  
**MONDAY:** Interested Parents—Stronger Schools.  
**TUESDAY:** Able Board Members—Stronger Schools. **WEDNESDAY:** Quality Teachers—Stronger Schools. **THURSDAY:** Ample Funds—Stronger Schools. **FRIDAY:** Challenging Curriculums—Stronger Schools. **SATURDAY:** Lifelong Learners—Stronger Schools.

For information on materials to help you plan appropriate A.E.W. observances, write to American Education Week, National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. *Looking In on Your School* may be ordered as described on page 5.



P.T.A.

BULLETIN

BRIEF ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

BOARD

FOR AND ABOUT P.T.A.'S

- **AN ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR** is sent home with each child the first day of school by the College Hill P.T.A. (Evanston, Illinois), along with an invitation to join the P.T.A. and a copy of the bylaws. Inside the calendar, which in itself is a handy item to own, is the P.T.A. program for the year and such other valuable information as the names and addresses of the P.T.A. executive committee, teachers, school board members, and room mothers. Events that parents and teachers sometimes need to be reminded of—P.T.A. and study-discussion group meetings, elections, and so on—are noted in the appropriate write-in spaces.
- **ATTENDANCE OF A P.T.A. REPRESENTATIVE** at every meeting of the Kane (Pennsylvania) school board last year was reported by the Central School P.T.A. All representatives (a different person attended each month) thought the experience extremely valuable.
- **THE GALOSHES EXCHANGE AND SALE** held by the Garrison P.T.A. (Wichita, Kansas) helped to enrich the unit's treasury, although it was planned primarily as a community service.
- **AS PART OF ITS STUDY** of the high school curriculum, the Central High School P.T.S.A. (Fargo, North Dakota) spent one of its meetings on languages in the schools. The evening's program included a talk, a film, and a visit to the Emerson Smith School language laboratory.
- **SCHOLARSHIPS** of \$500 for outstanding American high school seniors overseas were given this past year for the first time by the European Congress of American Parents and Teachers. Funds were raised by making five-cent-per-member assessments and inviting contributions from other overseas-based Americans and American organizations.
- **A "PHANTOM PLAY"** was offered by a Maryland P.T.A. when sponsoring its annual fund-raising play was out of the question. Tickets for "Absolutely Nothing" were sent to parents, with an invitation to "the greatest nonexistent show of the year." Purchase of tickets, they were told, would enable them "to spend one more nice quiet evening at home." Members were urged to take advantage of the more expensive reserved seats so they would be "absolutely sure of seeing nothing from the best vantage point." The project was a success!



- A group of student teachers from the National College of Education, Evanston, Illinois, visiting the National Congress Headquarters, receive a special briefing on P.T.A. functions and purposes from Ellen Dell Bieler (seated third from right), National Congress field staff member. This was the fifth annual visit for the class in "school and society," taught this summer by Christine M. Heinig (second from right), special lecturer who was on leave from her regular assignment as associate in elementary and secondary education, American Association of University Women, Washington, D. C. The booklet receiving attention is "Looking In on Your School: Questions To Guide P.T.A. Fact Finders," a Congress publication.

### ✓ CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

**P.T.A. Membership Enrollment Month,** October.

**Child Health Day,** October 3.

**Fire Prevention Week,** October 9-15.

**United Nations Day,** October 24. Program materials may be secured from the United States Committee for the United Nations, 816 Twenty-first Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

**American Education Week,** November 6-12. See page 6 for further information.

**1961 National Congress Convention,** May 21-24, Kansas City, Missouri.





● Mrs. Mary Hawkins, accompanied by her two sons, drove 4,500 miles from Ninilchik, Alaska, to attend the National Congress convention in Philadelphia. A vice-president from Alaska's District 5 and a voting delegate to the convention, Mrs. Hawkins didn't arrive until the last day. The drive took longer than she expected, she said. Here, after a visit with her mother, Mrs. Hawkins and Richard, 10, and Charles, 14, stow their gear for the long trek back to Alaska.

- **A TAPE RECORDING** of one of the business meetings of the Glenn Duncan P.T.A. (Reno, Nevada) served as a text for studies by the executive committee members, who listened in a month later and, they confess, learned valuable lessons.

- **TO PREVENT "DROPOUT PARENTS,"** the Clinton (Missouri) High School P.T.A. wrote the parents of all next year's ninth-graders: "This is an invitation," the letter said, "to give you a preview of high school life. . . . Please be our guests at this meeting [the last of the year] and then next year be our members." Also briefly included were outlines of the unit's program for the evening and its general plan for the year ahead.

- **A LETTER TO THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT,** Mrs. James C. Parker, from the Horace Mann P.T.A. (North Bergen, New Jersey) offers an idea to other P.T.A.'s: The unit's president found that *Such Is the P.T.A. Story* (reprint of Mrs. Parker's message in the April 1959 *National Parent-Teacher*, received in a P.T.A. packet of Congress and state aids) was just what she needed for Founders Day. This "story" coupled with the P.T.A.'s impressive list of accomplishments provided meaty fare for members and guests at the meeting.

## PUBLICITY PLUS!

► Newspaper clippings carrying news of our 1960 national convention have been pouring into the National Office since the last of May—nearly 2,000 of them! Tabulation shows that these items appeared in 942 newspapers, published in each of the 50 states. The largest number of items were carried in New York, Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Indiana, and Illinois, varying from 61 to 45.

- **"JOHNNY HAS COMICOPIA,"** presented by fifth graders at a Riverside P.T.A. (Shreveport, Louisiana) meeting, dramatized for both the youngsters and their parents the advantages of good literature over comic books. Comiopia germs, it seems, had been giving Johnny some restless nights, but all was well after he met a few characters from good literature and obtained his library card. The latest report of the Cincinnati Committee on the Evaluation of Comic Books also was featured at the meeting.

- **ONE PAGE IN EACH YEARBOOK** put out by Gulfport (Mississippi) High School students since 1956 has been devoted to the school P.T.A.—the students' way of saying "thank you" for the important role the P.T.A. plays in their lives. The young people serve on the unit's executive committee and help to plan programs and projects.

- **A NARCOTICS EXPERT** was presented a scroll citing his "many years of service and devotion to youth" by the Wentworth P.T.A. (Chicago, Illinois). The honoree, retired policeman Joseph F. Fiedoral, had devoted 11 years to giving more than 2,200 talks and demonstrations on the narcotics menace, usually to high school students.

- **A COORDINATED NEWSPAPER-TV SERIES** on education was conducted in Salt Lake City, Utah, last fall. During the series, broadcast over station KUED-TV, school administrators, congressmen, teachers, businessmen, and parents discussed some of today's educational problems. P.T.A.'s and other local organizations contributed questions they had raised in discussion groups. Supplementary articles on the next topic appeared in a Salt Lake City newspaper before each telecast.

- A special day in a small lad's life is the day he starts out on his journey through the grades. This six-year-old seems assured of a "happy journey" in a warm and friendly climate. For his new teacher and his mother have already come to know each other as members of the same P.T.A.

